

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): ~~The manufacturing process as claimed in Claim 15~~

A process for manufacturing an acrylic fiber comprising the steps of:

discharging a spinning feed solution comprising an acrylonitrile polymer comprising 80 wt % or more and less than 95 wt % of acrylonitrile unit in an organic solvent, into the first coagulation bath consisting of an aqueous organic solvent solution at 30 to 50°C containing 20 to 60 wt % of an organic solvent which may be the same as or different from the organic solvent for the spinning feed solution, to form a coagulated filament;

drawing the filament from the first coagulation bath at a rate of 0.6 to 2.0 times of the discharge linear velocity of the spinning feed solution;

stretching the filament by 1.1 to 2.0 times in the second coagulation bath consisting of an aqueous organic solvent solution at 30 to 50°C containing 20 to 60 wt % of an organic solvent which may be the same as or different from any of the two organic solvents; and

subsequently conducting wet heat stretching of the filament by three times or more; wherein the organic solvents in the spinning feed solution, the first coagulation bath and the second coagulation bath are dimethylacetamide;

the first and the second coagulation bathes are essentially at the same temperature and have essentially the same composition; and

where a spinneret used comprises an orifice hole having a ratio A/B of 2.0 to 10.0, wherein "A" and "B" are the length of each radially branched opening arm from its center to its tip and the width of the branched opening arm, respectively.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): ~~The manufacturing process as claimed in Claim 15~~

A process for manufacturing an acrylic fiber comprising the steps of:

discharging a spinning feed solution comprising an acrylonitrile polymer comprising 80 wt % or more and less than 95 wt % of acrylonitrile unit in an organic solvent, into the first coagulation bath consisting of an aqueous organic solvent solution at 30 to 50°C containing 20 to 60 wt % of an organic solvent which may be the same as or different from the organic solvent for the spinning feed solution, to form a coagulated filament;

drawing the filament from the first coagulation bath at a rate of 0.6 to 2.0 times of the discharge linear velocity of the spinning feed solution;

stretching the filament by 1.1 to 2.0 times in the second coagulation bath consisting of an aqueous organic solvent solution at 30 to 50°C containing 20 to 60 wt % of an organic solvent which may be the same as or different from any of the two organic solvents; and

subsequently conducting wet heat stretching of the filament by three times or more; wherein the organic solvents in the spinning feed solution, the first coagulation bath and the second coagulation bath are dimethylacetamide;

the first and the second coagulation bathes are essentially at the same temperature and have essentially the same composition; and

where a spinneret used comprises an orifice hole with an flatness of 5.0 to 15.0.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The manufacturing process as claimed in Claim [[13]] 18 where a fiber after stretching and before drying has a degree of swelling of 70 wt % or less.

Claims 21-23 (Canceled).

Claim 24 (New): The manufacturing process as claimed in Claim 19, wherein a fiber after stretching and before drying has a degree of swelling of 70 wt% or less.

Claim 25 (New): The process as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the spinning feed solution is discharged into the first coagulation bath through the spinneret.

Claim 26 (New): The process as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the spinning feed solution is discharged into the first coagulation bath through the spinneret.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 18-20 and 24-26 are active in the present application. Claims 1-17 and 21-23 are canceled claims. Claims 18 and 19 have been written in independent form to include the limitations of each of Claims 13, 15 and 16. Claims 24-26 are new claims. Support for new Claim 24 is found in previously presented Claim 20. Support for new Claims 25 and 26 is found in Example 1 of the specification.

No new matter is added.